

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 11, 15 and 19 were amended. The title has been changed to better reflect the claimed subject matter.

The amendment applies to each of independent claims 11, 15 and 19, and defines the periodic time slots as associated with "a plurality of subscriber units", the assignment of time slots resulting in each of the subscriber units "assigned a separable slot" and each secondary station finding the transmissions and slots assigned to it. Support is found in the original specification, at page 2, lines 8-12, page 3, lines 8-12, page 11, lines 1-7 (each subscriber assigned a separable slot), and P. 11, lines 16-26.

In the office action, claims 11, 13-23, 25-27 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,879,581 (Schlosser, et al.) Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection as applied to the revised claims.

The independent claims now define the base stations as controlling the synchronization. This is significantly different from the description of the Schlosser, et al. patent because in Schlosser there is no suggestion of synchronizing the timing of its downlink transmissions with received signals. As previously pointed out, the spacecraft clearly dictates the timing to the data terminals. See Schlosser, Column 4, line 53 to column 5, line 63 (cited previously).

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Application No.: 09/356,845

Accordingly, there is no suggestion in the prior art of record to provide synchronization of the secondary units operating in separable timeslots achieved by the secondary units. It is believed that the amended claims clarify that the primary station synchronized its timing to the base station and further has a secondary station synchronized its timing with the primary station. This is neither shown nor suggested by Schlosser. Accordingly, the claims are now believed to be in a condition for allowance.

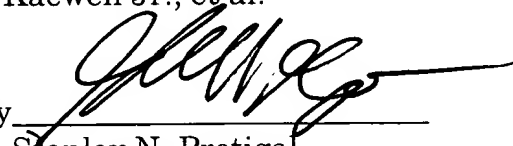
It is therefore submitted that the application, as presently amended, defines patentable subject matter. Therefore, the application is in a condition for allowance. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner feels that a conference will expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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